

# THE RICHMOND PLANET.

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JOHN MITCHELL, JR., - - - EDITOR

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SATURDAY - - - Dec. 13, 1890.

## THE CHARLOTTE CO. LYNCHING.

Again has Virginia been disgraced, and this time in a county, which, if we are to judge by its past record is a blot on the state, a stigma on the fair escutcheon of the grand old commonwealth which gave to the country its WASHINGTON and its JEFFERSON, and needed but the photograph of today, in times past and gone to send literally thundering down the ages the trumpet toned words of a PATRICK HENRY, proclaiming "Give me liberty, or give me death."

THADDEUS FOWLKES, colored was charged with the murder of Captain YANCEY, a white citizen of Keyesville. He was to have been tried in the Circuit Court of that locality.

The makers of the law had presumed that just such crimes would occur and had provided the penalty.

No one doubts but what he would have been legally hanged dead by the neck had he been convicted, and thus have been made an example of, according to the forms of law.

But, a body of irresponsible white men, armed with shot-guns intercept the sworn officers of the law, defy the orders of a judge, sitting in a judicial capacity, and hang their trembling, cowering victim, helpless as he was to a tree, and stand and see him slowly strangled to death. Not a shot is fired by the armed deputies who had been detailed to guard this prisoner back to Danville. Not a protest is chronicled, but they by passive submission become accessories to the crime and are virtually as guilty as the scoundrels who pulled the rope, and sent into eternity a human being wholly unprepared to meet his God.

The question of the guilt or innocence of the accused has no bearing from a stand-point of law. He may have been an unworthy, hardened criminal, but the unlawful lynching of him makes every other citizen's life insecure. His guise the fact as we may, the fact stands out in luminous characters that every man is entitled to a fair and impartial trial by a jury of his peers. To have it otherwise is to sap the foundation of our governmental superstructure, and veil in sack-cloth and cover with ashes those great principles of Constitutional government which form the basis upon which Republics have been reared and freedom guaranteed.

We live not in a monarchy, but in a free American Republic, where lynching should not have a resting place, nor wrong doing go unpunished.

Every man who was in any-wise concerned in this barbarous crime - this lynching of FOWLKES - is guilty of the same crime for which the prisoner was to have been arraigned at the bar of justice.

All such deeds of violence injure the fair name of the state, drive capital and with it prosperity from our doors, and inflict upon all classes of citizens in that locality alike, the rich and the poor, the innocent and the guilty, the penalty for such breaches of the peace, by inviting hard times and killing industries which might be fostered in the country referred to.

A few may violate the laws of political economy, but all must suffer. What will the local authorities do about this matter? What steps will be taken to secure the punishment of these violators of the law?

These lynchings are guilty of murder. They should be arraigned

ed before a jury of their countrymen to answer for their crime.

It matters not whether they can be convicted. The duty of that Sheriff is to see to it that they are apprehended and arrested.

What will Governor P. W. McKINNEY do? He who has been represented to be the embodiment of justice the uncompromising defender of the mandates of the law? He too stands sworn to recognize the civil and political equality of all men before the law and to see to it that the provisions as laid down in the code of Virginia are duly obeyed and otherwise respected.

Governor, THADDEUS FOWLKES, a citizen of the state, was lynched in Charlotte Co., Va., on the 2d inst. His murderers have not been apprehended nor punished.

In your official capacity as Governor of a great Commonwealth, it is desired that you offer a reward for his murderers. This course has been followed by the Governor of South Carolina. The officials of North Carolina have spoken against this barbarous practice of lynching and insisted that the law shall take its course. What will Virginia's officials do?

High above political considerations rest those of duty.

Gov. P. W. McKINNEY, will you offer a reward for the lynchings of FOWLKES?

Be his crime as foul as earth will permit, the law would have been swift and sure in meting the punishment. It never fails in cases of that sort.

To fail to take cognizance of such a crime is to encourage the commission of others.

Relying upon great principles, believing in the precepts of Christianity we make this appeal which all right-thinking people must realize as proper, and which the officials to whom it is addressed must necessarily conclude that according to their sworn obligations they cannot ignore.

Let the lynchings of FOWLKES be brought to justice. Lynch-law must go!

## A COLORED MAN ROASTED ALIVE.

The following telegraphic report explains itself.

CENTRAL, S. C. Dec. 4.-Harry Johnson, the colored man who died a rope around his neck on Monday and dragging her into the bushes criminally assaulting her, after his arrest, and his identification by Mrs. Walters, he was riddled with bullets on the spot where the crime had been committed. The mob left him for dead. Later yesterday some curious persons went to the place and found that Johnson was still alive, though dying.

As soon as this was reported some of the mob reassembled and decided upon a terrible revenge. A huge pile of dry leaves was collected, upon which the body of the dying man was placed. A brush was then piled upon him and when all was ready the match was applied. The groans of the tortured victim were pitiable, but he was past helping himself, and the flames slowly reduced his body to ashes.

Search history, read the highly colored stories of the Dark Continent; compare with it the most barbarous practices of the Redskins of the far West and none will exceed in brutality the treatment of that Colored man as chronicled in that report.

This occurs too in Christian America. Punish a man for a crime, and in so doing commit as brutal one as that which the criminal was charged with committing. Is this just? Is it according to the dictates of propriety or common sense?

JOHNSON'S soul has been ushered into eternity. The human fiends who sent him there will soon follow.

Man's life on earth at best is but for a brief season.

We cannot imagine what kind of hearts men could have to commit such a crime.

The idea of taking a human being, formed in the image of his Creator, and after riddling his body with bullets, consign it to the flames and stand around and listen to the pitiable moans of the unfortunate victim. This occurs in South Carolina, one of the darkest spots on the face of the globe. Its soil is soaked already in human gore which cries to God for vengeance.

Did you ever burn your finger. Have you ever pictured the punishment intended to have been meted out to three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace as portrayed in Biblical history. Then you can form an idea of JOHNSON'S suffering. Helpless, dying, no doubt all of his deeds good and evil arose before him. Possibly, a prayer found its way to his lips. He hears a cry of surprise, sees his tormentors make preparation for his cremation, is rudely placed upon his funeral pile. A match is

lighted, the angry flames leap on apace. In death's embrace, he feels the pain.

His limbs are scorched, roasted, charred, and yet he lives. His body is next attacked and as his clothes burn slowly, he experiences the torments of the damned.

He sees not the human fiends, gloating over his agony. There is one long drawn contortion, a faint throbbing of the heart. His cries cease and all is over. The Days of the Inquisition are reproduced in the 19th Century and HARRY JOHNSON'S soul goes to the GOD who gave it, where he will yet meet his murderers.

Whatever may have been his short comings or his crimes, he may have atoned for them. Not so with his murderers. Possessed of a prejudice which is indeed devilish, they become wise in their own conceit, and failing to ask for forgiveness for their heinous crimes in all probability will be ushered before the Maker unforgiven.

## OUR MORAL CONDITION.

We cannot understand how the average white Bourbon can prate about Negro morality, and declare us inferior on account of a partisan claim of our lack of it while events are transpiring in the history of the world which go to show that the white race, - the best element of it has been engaged in debauchery and immorality of all sorts and is to day. An injurious assertion relative to our Baptist and Methodist clergy was made by one of our rising young men, an assertion which we dare say is erroneous to the extreme in that it has tended to group the innocent with the guilty and brought reproach upon a class of leaders who have made sacrifices, and borne oppression in order that they might properly lead their people. Mr. PARNELL, the great Irish leader has been found guilty of adultery with Mrs. O'SHEA. A demand is made for his retirement from the leadership of the Party. One of his supporters, the Detroit News of the 19th ult. shows the corruption of English society in the following manner, and urges the facts adduced as strong argument for the continued recognition of the "uncrowned king."

"As to the influence which the episode will have upon the Irish cause in the minds of the people of Great Britain that may safely be left to take care of itself. Certainly the public opinion of England may well bear with Mr. Parnell after it has borne with Nelson, Wellington, and Palmerston. One might add Gratton, the butt for the unrivaled satire and ridicule of Junius, the late Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, whose disolute private life was notorious, the present Marquis of Hartington, and numerous other public men who have never thought it necessary to retire from their respective spheres in public affairs. Surely room may be found for Mr. Parnell in the British Parliament, while under the same roof may be found the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Beaufort, the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Hamilton, the Duke of Manchester, the Marquis of Aylesbury, and other notorious debauchees, and while George Bolton, the crown solicitor, whose unsavory reputation was forever smudged and smeared in the Dublin scandals, is still allowed to retain office."

The above is indeed a picture which should close forever mouths of the croakers concerning the Negro, and mark us as a race that has withstood immoral teachings without a wholesale practice to an extent that is marvelous. We do not cite this to justify wrong doings for our constant aim should be to improve our condition morally and otherwise, and thus on the record books of heaven excel in Godly deeds and moral practices the race of art, science and literature.

We have steadily maintained that lynching was in opposition to every precept of Christianity and in violation of those established customs which make civilization desirable, and law a thing to be respected.

Governor BEN TILLMAN, of South Carolina, in his inaugural address is quoted as follows:

"With all the Machinery of the law in our hands, with every department of the government - executive, legislative and judicial - held by white men, with white juries, white solicitors, white sheriffs, it is simply infamous that resort should be had to lynch law and that prisoners should be murdered because the people have grown weary of the law's delay and of its inefficient administration. Negroes have nearly always been the victims and the confession is a blot on our civilization."

This serves to establish the fact that lynch law is barbarous and must go.

Justice and fairplay should be the watchword. Bourbonism to the rear.

The new City Hall will be completed when the fellows get ashamed of themselves and decide not to bankrupt the city.

## EDUCATION NATIONAL LEGION.

At a meeting of the Lynchburg City Council on the 5th inst. a proposition was made for the erection of a Colored school in the western part of the city. Mr. R. L. MILLER, was patron of the measure. The Lynchburg News reports as follows:

"He urged the necessity of a new building as did Mr. Walker and Mr. Miller. But he regarded the present site as extravagant and would not have it. He thought the Negroes ought to be a little modest in their demands upon the white taxpayers of the community in view of the attempt now being made at Washington to make the school of this Southern country. He was friendly to the race and believed in elevating the colored people and helping them; but he ventured to think that it was high time the Negroes began to show some appreciation of such favors instead of showing the alien foot on all occasions."

That Mr. MILLER should have made such remarks is surprising. What have the Colored children of Lynchburg to do with the legislation of the Congress of the United States bearing upon a free ballot and a fair count? Besides the charge against that legislative body is erroneous. There has been no attempt at Washington, neither can be to constitute the Colored people the rulers of this Southern country. Mr. DULANEY must have known this and therefore stands convicted of having made statements that carried their falsity upon their face.

The Federal Elections Bill now pending before the United States Senate [to which measure he must have referred] so far from placing the Negro in the ascendancy only guaranteed him an equality in the matter of elections once in two years. The state or municipal affairs are not at all interfered with and the average Bourbon is left to continue his way of sin and transgression against those cardinal principles of government which form the basis of the American Republic.

We are pleased to see that some of the Democratic members of the council took the proper view of the matter. In educating its citizens be they white or black a community protects itself as much so as it benefits the citizen. Ignorance is civilization's greatest foe. Of itself it is a tax which is more onerous and expensive than the education which serves the community and ends its sway.

Be it said to the credit of Richmond's Democratic council men, no word of reference to pending legislation has been uttered within its confines. We have men here who while being Democrats have not forgotten how to be gentlemen, and to look out for the city's best interests regardless of their prejudices.

When northern philanthropists are importuned to donate to Southern institutions of learning, they do not ask relative to the partisan legislation of state governments nor the political complexion of the faculty. They give on higher grounds, expecting in the results of the educating influences to see the evils they abhor vanish like the frost before the sun. If Mr. DULANEY is right, he too should trust to the beneficent effect of education. If he is wrong he has all to fear from its enlightening influences. Southern men in the advocacy of their principles have been above price. The Negro is no exception to the rule.

Colored men, the skies are bright and brightening. Do not be discouraged.

The children of today are in many respects as wise as the men and women of twenty-years ago. The world moves on.

The National Convention of the White Farmers Alliance which has been in session at Ocala, Florida, was so influenced by the locality in which it met that it passed a resolution condemning the Federal Election Bill, and thus aligned itself with those persons who are opposed to honest elections.

The Colored Alliance, in session there was not slow to see the mistake made by their white brethren, as well as to observe the injury done the race throughout the country and unanimously adopted a resolution favoring the measure.

He desires to vote and wishes his vote counted as he cast it.

The Federal Election Bill is a measure designed to bring about this condition of affairs and the Colored Alliance did right to support it. Let Congress pass the Federal Election Bill!

When one reads the barbarous practices in the South, he is led to wonder whether it is not necessary for Christ to again redeem the world.

The great Indian uprising in the North-West proved to be a fake. It existed in the minds of reporters who desired to create a news paper sensation in the eastern sections.

The Colored man doesn't propose to emigrate. His ticket for heaven is the only one he is hankering after, and he isn't so particular about having that now provided he is sure of receiving it just before the gospel train starts off.

We are in the hands of the lynchers and in the hands of God. The first makes us sure of reaching the second on schedule time.

Starvation wages, and oppression for the Negro. Starvation wages and tuff for the poor white one Bourbo Democratic doctrine.

Let the liberal minded white men speak out. Let them send to the rear the Bourbon Democratic Negro-hating element.

Death comes to a Colored man in the South, but usually a Bourbon Democratic lyncher serves it.

Colored men are often discriminated against by white insurance companies. They are joining companies of their own.

Rev. C. H. JONES, D. D., of Fulton Tenn., was brutally beaten by a band of white men. November 23rd, 1890.

He is pastor of a church at that place, and was to preach on the Sunday following. Saturday night he was carried to a secluded place, stripped of every piece of his clothing, fearfully horsewhipped and then robbed of his money.

The crime was committed by some of the best citizens of the place.

On the church-door the Sunday following, the officers of the church put the following notice:

"Our pastor was beaten half to death and run off last night. No preaching to-day." This occurs in free America. No one is punished, although the perpetrators of the crime are known. Colored men should deal summarily with such scoundrels. It is a pity that the Elder was not read; for them in order that they might have been taught a lesson for the future.

Self-defense is the first law of nature and applies to preachers as well as to other people.

These Bourbons should now be seeking accounts on the other shore.

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